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Redactions in this document are entirely 3.3(b)(1).

THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT OUTSIDE CHILE

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VI. Chilean resistance activities in Latin America

A. Argentina

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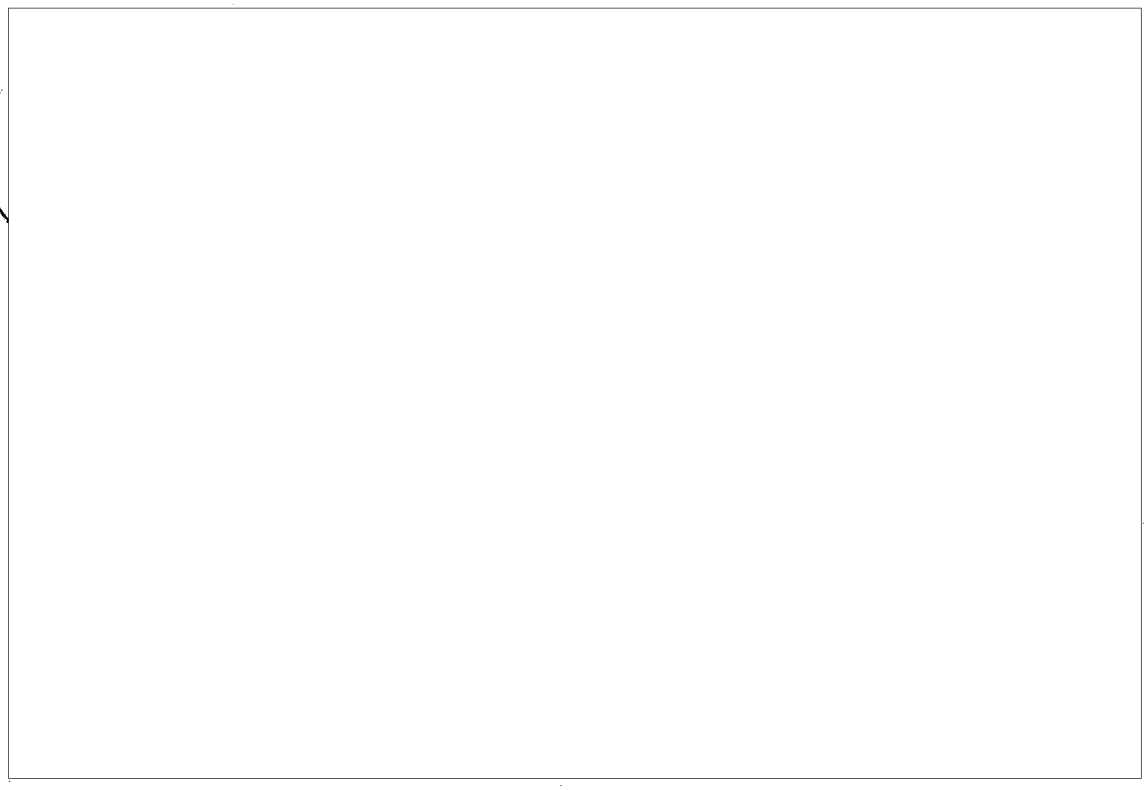

THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT OUTSIDE CHILE

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Argentina

29. Argentina's geographic proximity and until recently, political receptivity have provided a good base for exile operations. Although the Andes present a formidable barrier to communication, there are many isolated passes which can be used successfully by couriers and infiltrators along the long international boundary. Probably the most favorable factor is the success of the Argentine extremist organizations in carrying out kidnap-ransom operations, which have yielded experience, skill, and large amounts of money.

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30. There are thousands of Chileans in Argentina, some estimates put the number as high as 14,000. They are grouped principally in Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Salta, and around Bariloche. In the weeks following the coup they organized themselves into two rival groups, one moderate, one radical. They are the Patriotic Front of Chilean Resistance (FPRC), composed of Communists, moderate Socialists, Radicals, and members of the moderate faction of the United Popular Action Movement (MAPU); and the Chilean Revolutionary Resistance (RRC), composed of the MIR and the radical wings of the Socialist Party and MAPU. (It is not surprising that the UP in exile has continued the traditional division between moderates and extremists that existed in Chile.)

31. The FPRC was reported to possess some 50 rifles, plenty of money, and contacts with the Soviet and Cuban Embassies. The RRC has received money and arms from the Argentine extremist organizations. The Santucho faction of the ERP is allied with the MIR and recently provided it with US $3 million from the Samuelson ransom of Exxon official ~~ransom money~~. It has furnished other support services, such as documentation for MIR personnel, and has agreed to turn over its weapons caches in Chile. The ERP is the anchor organization of the fledgling but potentially dangerous Latin American Revolutionary Coordinating Group, which includes the Chilean MIR, the Uruguayan Tupamaros (MLN), the

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Bolivian National Liberation Army (ELN), and possibly one or more Peruvian groups. The Cubans are behind this international effort, and in Mario Santucho, they have a guerrilla fighter of intelligence and energy, who probably envisions himself as the successor to "Che" Guevara.

32. The PCCh decided about the beginning of 1974 that much of the work of reorganizing its commissions and military apparatus could be done more efficiently and securely outside the country. It therefore began sending selected members to Argentina and Peru to meet and make plans, and then return home to implement them. One of the largest concentrations of PCCh members is in Mendoza, where 300 young party members are living and working. There are MIR and Socialist exiles in Mendoza also, but they are largely inactive.

33. The turbulent political conditions in Argentina have probably served to distract government attention away from the Chilean exiles, but this situation may not last too long. Refugees in Buenos Aires, who number about 1,800 recently protested a Ministry of Interior order designed to force them out of the capital into the provinces. Many plan to leave Argentina. Although the order was issued prior to Peron's death, there is no evidence to date that the new regime plans to reverse the trend toward tightening restrictions on Chilean exiles.

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